

## System Configuration Team (SCT)

### Meeting Notes September 18, 2003

#### *Greetings and Introductions.*

The September 18 meeting of the System Configuration Team was held at the National Marine Fisheries Service offices in Portland, Oregon. The meeting was chaired by Bill Hevlin of NMFS. The agenda and a list of attendees for the meeting are attached as Enclosures A and B. Hevlin led a round of introductions and a review of the agenda.

The following is a distillation (not a verbatim transcript) of items discussed at the meeting, together with actions taken on those items. Please note that some enclosures referenced may be too lengthy to routinely include with the meeting notes; copies of all enclosures referred to in the minutes are available upon request from Kathy Ceballos of NMFS at 503/230-5420.

#### *1. Continued Discussion of Prioritization Line Item Work for the FY'04 CRFM Project Budget.*

Hevlin distributed Enclosure C, a list for discussion of possible criteria relating to the future decision of whether to stay on the accelerated development schedule for an Ice Harbor removable spillway weir, and Enclosure D, the most recent version of the FY'04 CRFM line-item spreadsheet, dated September 18. John Kranda said there is nothing new to report on the appropriations front; it now appears that we may be starting FY'04 without a budget, as we did last year. Kranda noted that the contractor for the B2 corner collector is still owed \$3 million for his work in FY'03; we still have hope that it will be possible for the Corps to find FY'03 funds to pay for that work, but if it is not, that money will have to come off the top of the FY'04 CRFM appropriation, which will impact some of the items toward the bottom of the list.

The remainder of today's meeting was devoted to a line-item-by-line-item discussion of the FY'04 spreadsheet; Kranda noted that items whose funding levels have changed are highlighted in grey. Items discussed included:

**21. Adult passage study:** FY'04 estimate reduced from \$2 million to \$1.6 million

**30. Bonneville adult PIT:** FY'04 estimate increased from \$150,000 to \$250,000

**43. System – adult temperature evaluation:** FY'04 estimate increased from \$600,000 to \$640,000

**42. McNary turbine survival above 1% peak efficiency** – how are costs for this line item shared with the McNary turbine improvement program? Item red-flagged for further discussion.

The \$340,000 is for gatewell testing only; more funds will be needed if a full turbine evaluation is included.

**36. Estuary studies** – salmon managers support acoustic tag and habitat studies, as well as estuary releases and cumulative ecosystem evaluation. FY'04 cost could increase to as much as \$6.3 million if all studies are fully funded, but actual cost will likely be closer to the \$4.8 million shown.

**7. B2 FGE:** construction funds OK, but is further study really needed? Study could become a lower priority if funds are tight.

**32. The Dalles forebay study:** mobile acoustic tracking component should be a lower priority; 3-D acoustic study should probably wait until technology is perfected in the estuary.

**56. John Day biological studies:** decision on whether and how to proceed depends on the data from '03, which is not yet available. Rock Peters suggested a special FFDRWG meeting to discuss the data once it is available.

**40. McNary survival/efficiency study:** it was agreed that if the spill gates at this project are fixed, then this study should proceed. The contract for this repair work will be awarded on November 16.

**17. Ice Harbor survival/efficiency study:** the main issue is to determine the spill configurations to be evaluated next spring. One option is to do a block study design, bulk spill compared to the spill used in previous years, using radio-tagged fish released above the project.

**1. Ice Harbor RSW:** The Federal executives are expecting a decision in November on whether or not to continue with the accelerated RSW at this project, Hevlin said. He noted that this is not a decision that needs to be made today; we're still waiting for the data from the Lower Granite RSW test in 2003, as well as more information about the potential cause of the injuries found last spring and summer at Ice Harbor. Russ Kiefer said that, in IDFG's opinion, CRFM is not the program that should be paying to evaluate a measure whose primary purpose is to save money on the spill program. Hevlin asked the group to review Enclosure C and to mark it up with any additional issues or areas of disagreement they may identify.

**10. Lower Monumental survival/efficiency study:** there was general agreement to wait to make a final recommendation on the parameters of this radio-tag study until the results from the 2003 pilot study are in. This study is tied together with the Ice Harbor and McNary spill radio tag studies.

**45. Lower Monumental RSW/BGS:** \$685,000 for plans and specs only to keep LoMo on the accelerated track.

**47. Lower Granite surface bypass:** should an '04 test be done with a modified curtain? Or should the Corps bypass this final test with the prototype curtain, and apply the dollars to building a new modified permanent curtain to use at Granite? Line-item needs more discussion; may become lower priority.

**52. System -- summer spill tests:** Kim Fodrea asked that this placeholder amount (\$350,000) be increased significantly to reflect the cost of the actual tests, not just study design costs. She said BPA is working with CBFWA to develop a workable testing plan. Tom Lorz said this study is on the funding bubble, in CRITFC's opinion. Peters said that, in his opinion, it is premature to increase the placeholder amount until the study design is better-defined.

**13. System -- delayed mortality of juvenile salmonids:** Lorz requested that the costs for this line-item be broken out. Hevlin said \$3.32 million of the \$4.14 million cost is for marking Upper Columbia juveniles; the other \$820,000 is either to cover the costs for removal of the saltwater

challenge facility at Bonneville, or to carry out the proposed study to look at the effects of density on transport of chinook with steelhead juveniles. It was suggested that \$820,000 be shifted from this line-item to line-item 55, below. After a brief discussion, Lorz said CRITFC is willing to let the current ranking stand for this line-item; if that changes, he said, we'll let you know at a future SCT meeting.

**55. B1 surface bypass**: there was general agreement that this line-item may need to be re-prioritized higher, and suggested that some its funding come from line-item 13 above.

Between now and the next meeting, Kranda asked the other SCT members to develop priorities for those line-items currently ranked between 47 and 56; he noted that, if the decision is made not to proceed with the Ice Harbor RSW in FY'04, that will free up \$5 million in funds that could be used for these line-items.

## ***2. Next SCT Meeting Date.***

The next meeting of the System Configuration Team was set for Thursday, October 16. Meeting summary prepared by Jeff Kuechle.